

ORIGINAL

Before IIII

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF

GRAHAM COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GRAHAM COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

FOR APPROVAL OF LONG-TERM DEBT.

**COMMISSIONERS** 

WILLIAM A. MUNDELL

FOR A RATE INCREASE.

JEFF HATCH-MILLER MIKE GLEASON

MARC SPITZER - Chairman

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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CORP COMMISSION OF CONTROL

DOCKET NO. E-01749A-02-0701

DOCKET NO. E-01749A-02-0<del>701</del>

NOTICE OF FILING

Staff of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Staff") hereby provides notice of filing the summaries of testimony for Staff Witnesses Crystal Brown, Erinn Andreasen, of the Utilities Division and Prem Bahl, of the Engineering Division.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of August 2003.

David M. Ronald

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Original and fifteen (13) copies of the foregoing filed this

day of August 2003 with:

Docket Control Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1	Copies of the foregoing mailed this day of August 2003 to:
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# WITNESS SUMMARY DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ERINN ANDREASEN GRAHAM COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. DOCKET NO. E-01749A-02-0701

Ms. Andreasen's testimony makes recommendations regarding the Utilities Division Staff's ("Staff") position regarding Graham County Electric Cooperative's application for a general rate increase on the subjects of the base cost of power, purchased power adjustor ("PPA") and bank balance, revenue allocation and rate design, unbundled tariffs, and a miscellaneous issue. Staff has the following recommendations:

- 1. Staff recommends that the base cost of purchase power be set at \$.060034 per kWh.
- 2. Staff recommends that Graham should recalculate its PPA rate to reduce its over or under collections when the bank balance becomes over or under collected by \$275,000.
- 3. Staff recommends that the rates proposed by Staff and summarized on exhibit EAA-1 be approved.
- 4. Staff recommends that the changes to Graham's service related charges be approved.
- 5. Staff recommends that the proposed unbundled rates summarized on exhibit EAA-3 be approved.
- 6. Staff recommends that Graham's Environmental Portfolio Surcharge tariff become permanent.

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## WITNESS SUMMARY DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CRYSTAL S. BROWN GRAHAM COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. DOCKET NO. E-01749A-02-0701

Staff recommends a \$469,115, or 4.47 percent, revenue increase from \$10,494,156 to \$10,963,271. Staff's proposed revenue increase would produce an operating margin of \$1,066,758 and a net margin of \$529,976 for a 7.49 percent rate of return on an original cost rate base of \$14,247,107. Staff's recommended revenue provides a 1.5 TIER.

Ms. Brown's testimony addresses the following issues:

<u>Plant In Service</u> – Staff decreased plant in service by \$1.47 million to remove the Cooperative's pro forma adjustment to include post-Test Year ("PTY") plant (plant not in service by the end of the Test Year) in rate base.

<u>Depreciation Expense</u> – Staff decreased depreciation expense by \$19,761 as a net result of removing depreciation expense on PTY plant and reflecting one full year of depreciation expense on Test Year end plant.

<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u> – Staff decreased accumulated depreciation by \$50,548 to remove the Cooperative's pro forma adjustment to recognize depreciation of PTY plant.

<u>Customer Deposits</u> – Staff increased customer deposits by \$87,632 to reflect the Test Year end balance.

<u>Cash Working Capital</u> – Staff decreased cash working capital by \$546,765 because the Cooperative did not provide a lead-lag study to support the amount proposed. The Commission has previously ordered the Cooperative to perform a lead-lag study to support its cash working capital allowance.

<u>Intangible Rate Base</u> – Staff removed the Cooperative's \$3,060 intangible rate base amount since it is a double count of intangible plant included in utility plant in service.

<u>Margin Revenue</u> – Staff increased Test Year margin revenue by \$4,567 to reinstate street light revenue removed by the Cooperative.

<u>Base Cost of Power Revenue</u> – Staff increased the Base Cost of Power Revenue by \$507,838 to match the Cooperative's proposed Base Cost of Power Expense. Staff decreased the Base Cost of Power

Revenue by \$153,026 to reflect Staff's reduction in the base cost of power from \$0.0614576 per kWh to \$0.060034 per kWh. The two adjustments resulted in a \$354,812 net increase.

<u>Purchased Power Expense</u> – Staff decreased purchased power expense by \$153,026 to reflect a reduction in the base cost of power from \$0.0614576 per kWh to \$0.060034 per kWh.

<u>Property Tax Expense</u> – Staff decreased property tax expense by \$24,410 as a result of removing property taxes on PTY plant.

<u>Interest on Long-term Debt</u> – Staff decreased interest expense on long-term debt by \$110,288 to remove interest expense that was not incurred during the Test Year.

<u>Capital Credit</u> – Staff decreased the capital credits by \$17,567 as a result of normalizing the cash capital credits received from Graham Electric's investments over five years.

# WITNESS SUMMARY DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PREM BAHL GRAHAM COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. DOCKET NO. E-01749A-02-0701

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The **purpose** of Prem Bahl's testimony is to discuss engineering evaluation of the Graham County Electric Cooperative's (Graham Electric) rate case application, focusing on system operations and planning, and to discuss the Utilities Division Staff's (Staff) review of Graham Electric's Cost of Service ("COS") study for both the bundled and the unbundled rate case.

Mr. Bahl's testimony presents the engineering analysis of his inspection of Graham Electric's distribution system and the process used in reviewing the Cooperative's Cost of Service study. This testimony includes the following recommendations:

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Staff recommends that:
  - a. Graham Electric should continue to pursue the accelerated wooden pole replacement and tree trimming program, and other necessary system improvements and additions reflected in the Cooperative's 5-year Work Plan 2002-2006.
  - b. Graham Electric should continue to use the same Cost of Service models in future rate cases as used in this rate filing.
  - c. Graham Electric should include the Street Light class in the unbundled COS study in its future rate filings.